



Los Angeles River
Photograph: Ciro Miguel

Los Angeles ‘River’

El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles del Río Porciúncula

Operating at the intersection of architecture, infrastructure, and landscape, the 2019 spring semester design studio of the chair of Marc Angéllil will focus on the Los Angeles ‘River’ – which in fact is not a river but a water control channel in concrete (approximately 80 km in length) erected after major floods by the Army Corps of Engineering from the late 1930s to mid-1950s – and its potential revitalization as a public space and integration within the urban fabric, or what historian and architectural critic Reyner Banham called in the early 1970s “the Plains of Id” in his book *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*.

Acknowledging that the dry riverbed of the Los Angeles River has been repeatedly used as a backdrop for a number of Hollywood movies, including *Chinatown* (1974), *Grease 2* (1982), *To Live and Die in L.A.* (1985), *Terminator 2* (1991), *Gone in 60 Seconds* (2000), and *The Italian Job* (2003), all contributing in part to the myth of Los

Angeles as an out-of-the-ordinary place that transcends the everyday (by the way, a myth to which also Reyner Banham succumbed when exclaiming “I love Los Angeles”), the design studio exercise will focus on the ordinariness of everyday life, foregrounding reality as experienced by those living in the city day in and day out.

While addressing the role of a piece of infrastructure within the city, one incidentally rarely perceived when traversing the urban terrain, the design studio intends to particularly address how architecture as a discipline can and must engage in framing and reframing the future of Los Angeles’s ‘architecture of the city’; in so doing, the studio will engage in a discourse on the relation between design method and design outcome – namely, between process and product, particularly considering that techniques deployed in any undertaking always have a determining effect on what is produced, constructed, fabricated, or made.

Los Angeles River
Stadtarchitektur

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Marc Angéllil

Professor of Architecture and Design

Team
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Introduction
Tuesday 19.02.2019
10:30, ONA Studio